Serial No.: 10/646,581 - 8 - Art Unit: 3728

Conf. No.: 9949

## **REMARKS**

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this preliminary amendment. Applicant has amended claims 11, 12, 19, 20, and 24 for further clarification. Claims 26-35 have been added. As a result, claims 1-35 are pending for examination with claims 1, 17, 18, 24, 27, 29, and 35 being the independent claims. No new matter has been added.

Favorable action is earnestly solicited. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

By:

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Docket No.: P0740.70001US00

Date: April <u>21</u>, 2005

**xNDDx**